

December 5, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Daniel S. Collins, Acting Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
/RA/
FROM: Alan B. Wang, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch G
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH GE NUCLEAR ENERGY (GENE)
(TAC NO. MC5780)

On November 1, 2005, the NRC staff conducted a meeting with GENE to discuss the Maximum Extended Load Line Limit Plus (MELLLA+), Detect and Suppress Solution - Confirmation Density (DSS-CD) and the methods licensing topical reports (LTRs). This meeting had an open and closed session.

GENE proposed a schedule for MELLLA+, DSS-CD, TRACG to support DSS-CD, Interim Methods and Final Methods LTRs. GENE requested that the NRC staff give these LTRs the same priority as license amendments in that they believe the reviews of the next several extended power uprates (EPU) would be expedited if these LTRs were approved first. Mr. Jared Wermiel agreed that the most expeditious route to resolve these would be to complete the generic LTRs first but noted that, currently, the plant specific reviews have the priority and the NRC staff needed to discuss this internally. He noted the NRC does not have the resources to make all the EPU and these LTRs priority "1." GENE noted that the MELLLA+ review would probably be completed before the Methods and two ACRS meetings would be needed. Mr. Wermiel recommended that we combine both LTRs into one ACRS meeting since the MELLLA+ LTR cannot be implemented until the Methods LTR is approved. He noted that we could issue the MELLLA+ Safety Evaluation without going to ACRS since no one can implement it. Mr. Frank Akstulewicz noted that all the LTRs need to be resubmitted to reflect the extensive requests for additional information that have been issued. Because of the on and off review of these issues, Mrs. Zena Abdullahi stated she is concerned about the paper trail of the revised LTRs and its effect on the NRC staff review. GE agreed a meeting before the revised LTRs are submitted is needed to summarize the current status and what the revised LTRs will provide.

The NRC staff agreed that MELLLA+ could be reviewed independent of the Methods LTR. GENE stated that the Interim Methods LTR will use the Vermont Yankee (VY) Extended Power Uprate (EPU) as the template for the LTR. The NRC staff stated that because the VY review was a plant-specific review, some of the plant specific conditions that allowed the NRC staff to approve it may not apply in the case of a generic review. GENE noted that they understand and that if the NRC staff could expound on the significant differences it would help in their preparation of the Interim Methods LTR. A meeting will also be needed for this issue. GENE stated its intent to provide an interim approach for the near term reviews and a long term solution that will remove the penalties applied in the interim approach. Mr. Wermiel and

Mr. Akstulewicz agreed that this seems reasonable. Mrs. Zena Abdullahi noted that GENE has some pin power gamma scan data available. In addition, GENE will be starting to obtain bundle power gamma scan data by February 2006. Considering the schedule of the MELLLA+ and Interim Methods reviews (June 2006), the NRC staff would be interested in seeing this data to see if it could provide insights to these reviews.

Mr. Daniel Collins reiterated that the NRC staff typically does not accept plant specific amendments referencing unapproved LTRs except as pilot plant reviews. Mr. Wermiel noted if a plant submits a pilot plant request we will not review any deviations from the assumptions used in the LTR. The advantage of the LTR is that we have approved the conditions for its approval and therefore reduced staff effort is needed. To deviate from the LTR will result in the need for plant specific-reviews (i.e. VY EPU).

GENE stated while some "minor" changes are needed for the revised DSS-CD LTR, it will basically reflect all the discussions and RAIs reviewed to date. The issue of spurious SCRAMS will be discussed on a plant-specific basis in the amendment request. Again, the NRC staff noted that the comments on plant specific reviews apply here and also the NRC staff noted the resource constraints as the lead reviewer has left the branch. While the NRC staff agreed the DSS-CD LTR could be approved based on a viability call on the TRACG DSS-CD LTR, the NRC staff expects a final TRACG DSS-CD LTR to be submitted for review and approval.

Based on the status of our reviews (both about 70 to 80 percent complete), the NRC staff had previously agreed that the MELLLA+ and DSS-CD LTRs could be completed and issued independent of the Methods review. The NRC staff stated this is true and is our preferred method for review but again noted our resource problem. If plant-specific reviews are made top priority the NRC staff would not be able to meet the schedule for completion of these LTRs. GENE stated it will be speaking to its customers on this issue. Mr. Wermiel stated he plans to discuss this with NRC management. Mr. Wermiel wanted to make sure that GENE and the attending licensees understood that if the NRC staff works on the generic LTRs first, no plant-specific EPU will be issued until after the generic is completed. GENE stated it is considering an alternative approach. Given that VY has been approved, GENE could provide a template to the NRC staff providing a VY-type approach which the plants could reference. Mr. Wermiel noted any plant attempting this would need to demonstrate that it is bounded by all the conditions in the VY SE. If that were the case, he saw no reason why that may not work.

A list of attendees is attached. The non-proprietary presentation slides are available in ADAMS under accession numbers ML053070269.

The staff thanked GENE for the presentation.

Project No. 710

Attachment: List of Meeting Attendees

cc w/att: See next page

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DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC	FAkstulewicz	QNguyen
PDIV-2 Reading	SLu	THuang
CHaney	DCollins	LLois
ZAbdullahi	MHoncharik	RCaruso
H. Berkow	AWang	
E. Hackett	CGrimes	

Meeting Notice: ML052920469 PKG: ML053220120

ACCESSION NO.: ML053210429 NRC-001

OFFICE	PLBIV/PM	PSPB/LA	DSS	PSPB/BC(A)
NAME	AWang	DBaxley	JWermiel	DCollins
DATE	12/5/05	12/5/05	11/29/05	12/5/05

**MEETING WITH GE NUCLEAR ENERGY (GENE)
LIST OF ATTENDEES**

November 1, 2005

GENE

L. Quintana
G. Stramback
M. Lalor
M. Colby
R. Svarnby
P.T. Tran

NRC

J. Wermiel
A. Wang
F. Akstulewicz
Z. Abdullahi
Q. Nguyen
T. Huang
L. Lois
D. Collins
R. Caruso

Entergy

C. Nichols

PSEG

D. Notigan

PPL

J. Geosits
J. Oddo
M. Gorski

Progress Energy

L. Beller
K. Fennell
T. Dresser

TVA

J. D. Wilcott
E. Riley
D. Langley
F. Hartwig
J. Bailey

GE Nuclear Energy

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March 2003